

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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TELLS OF HIS DEED

Umatilla Indian Confesses His Crime on Deathbed.

ANOTHER HANGED FOR THE DEED

Indian Named Williams Says Pilyen Did Not Murder Aged Woman for Her Money.

A death-bed confession makes it certain that the wrong man was hanged for a murder on the Umatilla Reservation 13 years ago. The man whose life was wrongly taken was Pilyen, a young Cayuse Indian, who was convicted of the murder of Mrs. Agnes Tessant. Now comes the saddest part of the story—the narration of the death-bed confession of a guilty man, which was made by his wife to Joe Craig, the Indian interpreter, but not until after she had kept the secret three weeks.

A few weeks ago, an Indian, Victor Williams by name, whose home was near the government school, on the reservation, finding himself at the door of death with consumption, called his wife to his bedside and horrified her by confessing that it was he, and not Pilyen, who had murdered Mrs. Tessant. He said he had not intended to kill her, but as she was supposed to have considerable money in her house, and lived alone, he thought he could safely rob her. While he was ransacking the house, Mrs. Tessant awoke, made an outcry and seized him. Thereupon he murdered her. He kept his secret 13 years, but had suffered the agonies of the damned whenever he thought of the weak old woman he had killed, and Pilyen, his close personal friend, whom he had permitted to be judicially murdered to screen himself. He had become unable to sleep at night and remorse so preyed upon him that he fell into a decline and finally became a victim of consumption. To ease his conscience, he said, he must confess his double murder before he died, lest he could not find rest even in the grave. Such is the story Victor Williams told his wife.

THE CRIME.

On the third day of April, 1889, Mrs. Agnes Tessant was murdered. Her body was discovered by her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Domain. The woman's brains had been beaten out with a club, and to make sure of his work the assassin had cut her throat. For some days no clue to the murderer was found, but finally pony tracks were discovered in an adjoining field, which were traced to the neighborhood of a young Cayuse Indian called Pilyen. Pilyen's wife had been seen washing a shirt in the Umatilla river the day after the murder. The shirt was found by the officers, identified as belonging to Pilyen, and a doctor swore at the preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Tustin that the stains on the shirt were blood, but whether of an animal or human being he was not sure. Pilyen was committed for trial in the United States Court at Portland, and was placed in the Multnomah County jail. Upon his trial before Judge Deady, in addition to the evidence about the pony tracks and the blood stains on the shirt, an Indian named Liberty, who had been a fellow prisoner with Pilyen, went on the witness stand and swore that Pilyen confessed the murder to him in the Portland jail. Upon this evidence Pilyen was convicted and duly hanged. Pilyen always denied his guilt to friends and lawyers.

A circumstance showing the truculent character of Victor Williams was recalled by Lee Moorehouse, who was Umatilla Indian agent when the murder was committed. Mr. Moorehouse says that he recalls the fact now that on the evening preceding the murder, Williams came to Pendleton and got some whisky. When returning to the reservation, as he passed the Sisters' school on the eastern edge of the town, he fired a pistol shot through a second-story window of the academy, the bullet narrowly missing one of the Sisters. His flight from the country saved him from being prosecuted for this offense.

EXPENSIVE IMPROVEMENT.

Parochial Residence Completed—Alterations to Catholic Edifice Going On.

The improvements going forward about the premises occupied by the Catholic church are no doubt of a more extensive and noteworthy nature than many of the people of this city realize. What is known as the parochial residence is now practically completed and is being occupied by Father Hillibrand. The structure is modern throughout. It contains nearly a dozen large well arranged rooms, which, when furnished, will certainly be one of the most pleasant and convenient homes in this city. The building will have cost over \$3,000, and since its proportions are not extraordinarily large it may readily be understood that the general construction must be modern and its finish of the best material obtainable, the result of carefully prepared plans and the product of skillful labor. Father Hillibrand is very proud of the structure, and takes a keen interest in all that is being done about the premises, personally supervising every detail. The fact that the church and residence occupy the most commanding location on the flat easily renders the place an ideal spot for the purposes to which it has been dedicated, and when the improvements are completed a most creditable change in the appearance of that part of the city will have been accomplished.

Another important change in the premises is just now going on. The church building is receiving a very large addition on the front, which has been made necessary by the increase in the attendance at the services conducted there. The additional room has a ground surface of 30x35 feet, the full height of the original building. The finishing material used on the front of the old building has been very carefully removed and will be replaced on the front elevation of the new portion. Particularly is

WILL EXTEND LINE

Trolley Road Will Be Built To Springwater.

WORK WILL START FORTHWITH

Specifications Are Ready For Inspection By Intending Contractors—Complete by Fall.

Construction work on a trolley line to Springwater is to begin at once and be pushed with the hope of completing all lowland grade before Fall rains commence. The Oregon Water Power & Railway Company Monday announced that it had let the contract for the 5 1/2 miles between Lents and Gresham. Contractor Mason has begun assembling instruments for the grading, and crews of men will be put on the work Monday. The intention is to have that stretch of road ready to operate before December. Contracts for the construction of the additional 25 miles to the company's power site on the Clackamas river will be let before the end of this month, and the work will be entered upon at once. The power site is about a mile and a half from Springwater postoffice, and for the present the power station will be the terminus of the line.

FIRE NEAR DODGE.

Greater Loss Sustained to the Neighborhood Than at First Reported.

To THE EDITOR.—We have just passed through a forest fire, or rather it came near passing through us of this locality. It burned over a large scope of country—about three miles long and six miles wide in extent. It came near burning us all out of house and home.

William Neiman lost every thing—house, barn and fences. His total loss is about \$400. He is at present in Eastern Oregon. William Busch had just completed a large barn, which would have been destroyed had it not been for the faithful work of Messrs. Kirchem and Foster. Myers & Son saved their sawmill plant by hard work. It was a close call. Constantly for thirty-six hours the owners and others fought the fire back. As it was there was a loss of about \$150 sustained. The mill is again about ready to run, however. The house and barn of J. T. Myers came near being destroyed. The barn contained about forty tons of hay. We are satisfied that people visiting the locality looking for berries set out the fire, through carelessness and cussedness. We have a clue as to who set the fire, and when we become thoroughly convinced we propose to prosecute the offenders to the full extent of the law.

We are at a loss to know why there is not a forest ranger sent to this part of the country. There should be such an officer here, as our property is in danger of destruction all through the dry season. Parties coming from a distance to pick berries do not seem to care whether they destroy the whole country or not.

[Later reports just in from Springwater are to the effect that the fire has been revived and further and more serious damage is feared.]

Resolutions of Respect.

OREGON CITY, August 19th.—Once more Meade Post, Department of Oregon G. A. R., has been called upon to follow to his last resting place the remains of another beloved and honored comrade; Nathan Tingle, who died at his home in Gladstone, August 4. Comrade Tingle was a member of Battery E, First Regiment of Michigan Artillery, and remained with that organization until the close of the war. His Battery was assigned to duty in the Western army, under Thomas, and served with distinction in all the hard-fought battles in which the army of the Tennessee was engaged. He was a man beloved by all who knew him, as a man of unswerving integrity and loyalty and a neighbor to be relied upon at all times, always ready to lend a helping hand to those in want or distress; a loving husband and father. The comrades of Meade post deeply deplore the loss of our beloved comrade and extend to the family of the deceased their heartfelt sympathy, feeling that as the years roll on our fast thinning ranks will be so reduced in the near future that the last member of that grand old organization will have answered the last roll call, and what was will be no more.

G. A. HARDING,
C. A. WILLIAMS,
L. W. INGRAM,
Committee.

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The construction contracts are for clearing the right of way and preparing the grade for ties and rails, which will probably be laid by the company. Labor for clearing the right of way and preparing the grade is expected to be supplied by the farmers along the line. The harvest rush will be passed, and many farmers will be glad of the opportunity to do this work near their homes for the cash it will bring in. By dividing the line into short sections work may be prosecuted in many places at the same time, and this plan is expected to get most of the grade out of the way of the rains. On high land, where drainage is easy, the work may be prosecuted in the wet season, and those stretches will be left until the last. The bridges will not be included in the grading contracts and they will probably be built under the direct supervision of the company.

Right of way has been obtained all through to the power station, with the exception of three or four tracts, for which condemnation proceedings will be necessary, and will be instituted at once.

LOST ON MOUNT HOOD.

Terrible Experience of Rev. Breck, Portland Episcopal Minister.

Lost in a blinding snowstorm on Mount Hood for 36 hours was the terrible experience of Rev. W. A. M. Breck, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal church, of Portland. Rev. Breck had been passing his vacation at Government Camp. Last Saturday morning, accompanied by a small party, he left the camp for the snowline. He did not intend to climb the mountain. The day was a cloudy one and not at all favorable for such an attempt. He had with him his alpenstock, this being his only equipment.

The other members of the party returned at noon, for leaden clouds were making their appearance, and there were unmistakable signs of an approaching snowstorm. Rev. Breck's absence was not noticed until later in the day. In the meanwhile the storm broke in all its fury.

Night came, but Mr. Breck was still missing. Of course, everyone was much alarmed, and Government Camp was in an uproar.

Searching parties were organized and plans were made to go out for the lost man as soon as the storm should abate. Sunday morning came and still no word, the storm meanwhile continuing. Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the welcome news was brought from the toll gate, nine miles below Government Camp, that the lost traveler had arrived.

During the time that he had been on the mountain he was without food and without even a match. All night he leaned against a tree. When day broke he was fortunate enough to reach one of the streams, the Zig-Zag, which he followed, and thus reached the toll gate.

All Were Saved.

'For years I suffered such untold misery from Bronchitis,' writes J. H. Johnston, of Broughton, Ga., 'that often I was unable to work. Then, when everything else failed, I was wholly cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. My wife suffered intensely from Asthma, till it cured her, and all our experience goes to show it is the best Croup medicine in the world.' A trial will convince you it's unrivalled for Throat and Lung diseases. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Geo. A. Harding's.

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